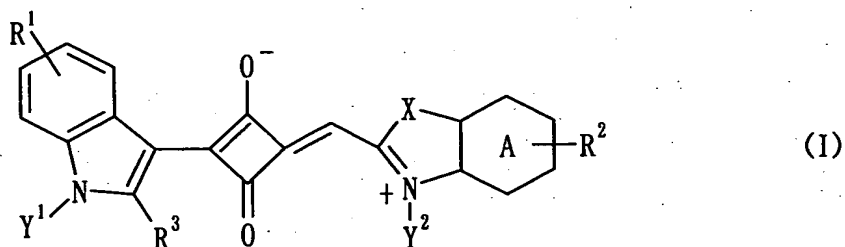


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cyanine compound represented by formula (I):



wherein ring A represents a benzene ring or a naphthalene ring; R^1 and R^2 each represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or an aryl-containing group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms; R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or an aryl-containing group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms; X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, $-CR^4R^5-$, $-NH-$ or $-NY'-$; Y^1 and Y^2 each represent a hydrogen atom or an organic group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms; R^4 and R^5 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a benzyl group, or R^4 and R^5 are taken together to form a cycloalkane-1,1-diyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms; and Y' represents an organic group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

10

15

2. The cyanine compound according to claim 1, wherein X is $-CR^4R^5-$.
3. An optical filter containing the cyanine compound according to claim 1.
4. An optical filter containing the cyanine compound according to claim 2.
- 20 5. The optical filter according to claim 3, which is used for an image display device.
6. The optical filter according to claim 4, which is used for an image display device.

7. An optical recording material for use in an optical recording medium having a substrate and an optical recording layer formed on the substrate, the optical recording material containing the cyanine compound according to claim 1 and being used in the optical recording layer.

- 5 8. An optical recording material for use in an optical recording medium having a substrate and an optical recording layer formed on the substrate, the optical recording material containing the cyanine compound according to claim 2 and being used in the optical recording layer.